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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 89% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 82,133 | Nifty 24,768 | Gold 78,870 | Silver 93,500 | Dollar 84.88 | Euro 89.01 | GBP 107.31

DPR for metro's phase 3 corridor considers various parameters for smooth movement, but also mentions that around 11,137 trees may have to be cut/transplanted for the work

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's (BMRCL) recent detailed project report (DPR) for Phase 3 corridors shows that no consideration was made for the city's green cover in the project's planning stage.

According to the report, more than 11,500 trees are likely to be cut or transplanted during the construction of 44.65 km of metro line and 31 stations.

In the DPR, while various parameters have been considered in the planning and designing of the 31 stations from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura and Hosahalli to Kadabagere, there is no mention of Bengaluru's trees.

The parameters include peak hour traffic load, total evacuation time for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"The majority of the BMRCL's corridors are along the median of existing highways and roads. We try to avoid parks and other intact green patches during our design and planning stages — Yathish Ullal, BMRCL

CITY / PAGE 4

Wheeler dealers

Of 827 cases of wheeling booked in city over past 3 years, 170 cases involved minors — fines collected from parents, guardians

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THINGS TO DO

01 Feel the magic

Christmas Chronicles at Phoenix Mall of Asia: Spectacular 65 Ft Christmas Tree, Santa Meet & Greet, European Themed Christmas Market, Snowfall Experience, Carol Singing & Musical Band Performance & Festive Characters.
Where: Grand Plaza, Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru North; When: Until December 15, 5 pm onwards

02 Origami decor ideas

Adorn your tree with origami! A workshop by Sound of Paper with Pooja Ugrani, an architect and teacher from Bengaluru. For ages 6 and above
Where: Urban Solace; When: December 14, 11:30 am to 1 pm

03 All art

Hands-on workshops, curated artisanal exhibits, handmade products, and live music performances at Artisan Bazaar 2024, a two-day celebration of India's artisanal heritage and sustainable craftsmanship.
Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwanthpur When: December 14, 15

04 Shop on

AVLGI Family presents 'Flea Market.' Chief guests: LA Ravi Subramanya, Basavanagudi MLA; AN Kavitha Eragam, AVLGI Founder & Intl President; & Dr Eragam Venkatesh, International Advisor, AVLGI.
Where: Vidyapeeta Rangamandira; When: December 14, 10 am to 7 pm

05 Walk the tale

A special gallery walk by Sheela Gowda, artist/colleague, and by the students of JMS Mani-artists Surekha, Alaka Rao, Naveen Kumar, and Chaitra Puthran, in conjunction with the ongoing in-house curated retrospective exhibition 'Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani.'
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art When: December 14, 3:30 pm

More than what meets the eye? Extreme weather fatalities dip

Official data indicate state records fewer deaths, but experts warn of under reporting of such cases, call for stronger measures for public safety

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to recent data, the total number of fatalities and injuries in Karnataka caused by extreme weather events, such as heat waves, floods, cyclones, landslides, and droughts during the last five years (between 2019 and 2023), has significantly reduced. The Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences also recently announced that the number of deaths due to extreme weather events in the country has gone down. The state recorded 59 deaths in 2019. As many as 164 deaths were reported in 2020, followed by 45 deaths in 2021, 67 deaths in 2022, and only 22 deaths in 2023 due to lightning, thunderstorms, floods, and heavy rains. However, Bengaluru-based disaster experts say this number is a gross misrepresentation as the number of deaths has been underreported.

"This number appears to be false, as the number of deaths due to disastrous events in the state would easily cross one hundred. While the number might be less than last year or the previous year, as 2023 was a drought year, but total of 22 deaths is certainly an underreported figure," said a city-based expert.

A report by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) on deaths due to lightning in Karnataka in 2023 shows 66 people died across multiple districts due to the natural disaster.

"The number of deaths would certainly be higher than the number projected by the Centre. However, we have advanced warning and weather forecast systems in place, and that has helped in bringing down the fatalities to some extent. Early warning systems and monitoring by India Meteorological Department (IMD), in coordination with various research centres across the country, have helped minimise loss of life and property during extreme weather events," said Dr GS Srinivas Reddy, former director of KSNDMC.

Need for stronger facilities

IMD provides weather information to all the stakeholders and issues outlooks, forecasts, and warnings for the public and disaster management authorities to prepare for extreme weather events. Experts say IMD's colour-coding system to highlight the impact of the severe weather expected has proven successful in the past. However, there is a need to improvise methodologies that are being used to spread awareness about disastrous events among farmers and villagers.

"An important aspect of building climate change resilient infrastructure and facilities is awareness about these facilities among the most vulnerable section of the society. It is the farmers who are mostly caught in these events while working in fields. However, more often than not, the infrastructure or facilities built around protecting this vulnerable group from disastrous events do not reach remote areas," said Dr Reddy.

He further said that a farmer, even today, can be seen seeking shelter under a tree during lightning. "...There is a need for the district disaster management authorities to spread awareness about such issues so more lives can be saved. We need better awareness programs at Grand Panchayat levels."

> **"While fatalities might be less than last year, as 2023 was a drought year, a total of 22 deaths is certainly an underreported figure** – City-based expert

Chitra Santhe 2025 to focus on child marriage, female foeticide

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is set to host the 22nd edition of its Chitra Santhe on January 5, 2025. Held annually on the first Sunday of January, this year's event aims to raise awareness about pressing social issues such as child marriage and female foeticide under the theme "Protecting Women: A Shared Responsibility." Organisers believe that the powerful medium of visual art can significantly influence societal attitudes.

3,000 applications in for just 1,300 spots

Sources said that despite being a one-day event, the art fair attracts lakhs of visitors, many of whom purchase their favourite paintings, generating significant economic activity worth crores. This year, over 3,000 applications were received, a record number. A jury of experts will carefully select 1,300 artists based on stringent criteria, ensuring that only high-quality works are displayed. The Chitra Santhe will span the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath premises, Kumarakrupa Road, and nearby streets (from Sivananda Circle to Windsor Manor Circle).

Diverse art forms

Sources said that the event will showcase a wide array of traditional and contemporary art forms, including Mysuru, Thanjavur, Rajasthani, and Madhubani styles, as well as oil, watercolour, acrylic, and glass paintings.

Chitra Santhe-2024

Collages, lithographs, doodles, embossing, video art, sculptures, installations, mixed media, photography, and even creative works made from recycled materials will be on display. Both professional and amateur artists, including students, will participate in the event, creating a vibrant visual treat for visitors. Portrait artists, in particular, are expected to draw special attention with their live demonstrations.

According to an organiser, Chitra Santhe has been instrumental in fostering a bond between national-level artists and art enthusiasts for over two decades. At the same time, art lovers have the chance to purchase unique pieces directly from creators. "While there are several platforms for exhibitions, many talented artists lack opportunities to showcase their work. This fair provides them with a much-needed stage. Artists from more than 18 states across the country will participate in this year's edition, solidifying Chitra Santhe's reputation as a truly national-level art fair. This event is not only a celebration of art but also an effort to bridge the gap between artists and their audiences while promoting social messages through creative expression," said an organiser.

Home guards on VIP duty, who will regulate traffic?

Citizens, social activists allege misuse of home guards to protect 'precious' parking space, urge immediate action to curb such practices

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A few residents of Indiranagar and social activists are aghast to come across home guards working for a retired Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) at the cost of taxpayers' money.

Two home guards are posted to work in two shifts per day by Jeevan Bhima Nagar Traffic Police on the 12th Main of Indiranagar to regulate traffic at the intersection and ensure that no vehicles are parked on the right side of the road. However, the residents and social activists have said the home guards are particular in ensuring no vehicle is parked in front of the former DG&IGP than regulating traffic at the intersection.

Usha Dhanaraj, an employee of a private company, said that navigating the intersection near ESI Hospital on 12th Main is a daily struggle. "The absence of a traffic constable leads to chaos and frequent jams, and ambulances are often stuck in gridlock. It will make a big difference if traffic police could man this junction during peak hours to ensure smoother and safer movement for everyone," she said.

This BM correspondent, based on the complaints, visited the spot on Friday morning and found a home guard taking pictures of vehicles parked on the right side of the road. Some residents said that home guards are not allowing parking of vehicles on the left side of the road near the former DG&IGP's residence. It is said that traffic police constables used to be posted at the spot, but now home guards are posted to ensure no parking in front of the former DG&IGP's residence.

A woman home guard is seen guarding the retired DG&IGP residence on Thursday

> **Misusing home guards is outright waste of taxpayers' money. Immediate action is needed to stop such practices & prevent misuse of public resources**
> –Shivakumar, human rights activist

Misuse of authority

Coming down heavily on misusing home guards, Shivakumar, a human rights activist from Domlur, said that home guards are meant for public safety and traffic management but not for private security. "Misusing home guards is an outright waste of taxpayers' money. Immediate action is needed to stop such practices and prevent the misuse of public resources. Moreover, it is inhumane to leave them on duty without proper shelter or facilities," he said.

It is deeply disappointing to witness the misuse of public resources, where a home guard, assigned to manage traffic congestion, is instead stationed to guard a private residence, preventing citizens from parking on a public road, said Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation. He said this not only reflects a disturbing abuse of entitlements post-retirement but also highlights the neglect of critical civic duties.

"Taxpayers' hard-earned money is squandered while traffic at the 12th Main intersection remains chaotic, unregulated, and jammed. Instead of serving the public good, such misuse of authority compounds the very problems that need urgent attention. This practice undermines the trust in public systems and calls for immediate corrective action," Jacob said.

Home guards are posted to regulate traffic: Police

Meanwhile, Jeevan Bhima Nagar Traffic Police Inspector said that the home guards are deputed at the intersection of the 12th Main Road to regulate traffic and ensure no parking on the right side of the road.

When informed, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), speaking over the phone from Belagavi, said the home guards are not posted to serve or guard any particular residence or person. "The home guards are posted to regulate traffic at the intersection," the DCP said.

Man kills ex-colleague for revenge, dies by suicide

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A 40-year-old man killed himself by suicide on Thursday near Nallur Halli Lake under the Whitefield police station limits. The man, identified as Mithun Mandal reportedly murdered his former colleague in ITPL on the previous day. The victim is identified as Mouni Mandal (26), who was working as a caretaker for Montessori children.

According to the police, Mithun was also working in the same place but later was removed from the job after Mouni alleged he misbehaved with her. In order to take revenge on her, Mithun murdered Mouni by stabbing her with a knife on Wednesday night. The very next day, Mithun was found hanging from a tree near Nallurahalli Lake, fearing arrest by the police.

The preliminary investigations also revealed that Mouni was married in 2016 and also had a 4-year-old child. The Whitefield Police have registered a case regarding the incident and further investigations are underway.

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Wheeling out of control: 170 minors caught, ₹17.9 L fined

Traffic police book 827 wheeling cases in three years, with recent special drive resulting in 76 cases and 56 arrests; despite efforts, minors continue engaging in dangerous stunts

| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over the past three years, Bengaluru's traffic officials have taken a firm stand against illegal wheeling, booking a total of 827 cases. Among these, a significant 170 cases involved minors as offenders, resulting in a hefty ₹17.9 lakh in fines collected from parents and guardians held accountable for their children's dangerous behaviour on the roads.

A year-on-year increase

Data released by the city traffic police reveals a disturbing trend. In 2022, authorities reported 283 wheeling cases, arresting 186 individuals and seizing 198 vehicles. The following year, the numbers climbed to 219 cases, 214 arrests, and 209 seizures. However, 2024 has witnessed a significant spike, with 325 cases, 283 arrests, and 270 seizures recorded so far.

Toll on young lives

A particularly alarming aspect of this issue is the involvement of minors. In 2022, 25 minors were caught engaging in wheeling, while the figure rose to 70 in 2023. This year, 75 minors have been apprehended. The special drive which was conducted between 2 December to 12 December, targeted individuals performing reckless stunts such as dangerous wheelies and high-speed manoeuvres and yielded significant results. Among the 56 offenders arrested, 15 were found to be minors, highlighting a concerning trend of young individuals engaging in dangerous stunts on public roads.

On 12 December, Pulakeshinagar and JB Nagar Traffic Police Stations conducted a special operation against wheeling on Tambuchetty Road and Suranjan Das Main Road. During patrols, Pulakeshinagar Police identified two riders performing stunts on two-wheelers and confiscated their vehicles. Simultaneously, JB Nagar Traffic Police apprehended two adult riders engaged in wheeling and impounded their two-wheelers. Separate FIRs were registered against the offenders, and legal action has been initiated.

High cost of recklessness

The city police have also imposed hefty fines on offenders. In 2022, Rs 10,24,500 was collected in fines, with an additional Rs 2,37,500 from guardians of minor offenders. In 2023, the figures were Rs 17,81,500 and Rs 10,39,850, respectively. For 2024, the amounts collected so far stand at Rs 12,21,750 and Rs 5,15,250.

Call for Action

"Despite intensified efforts, the issue persists," Police Commissioner, B Dayananda stated during the weekly press meet. "The Traffic Police conducted a special drive targeting wheeling cases, and we are sending seized DLs (Driving Licence) and RCs (Registration Certificate) for the suspension to the Transport Department. For minors caught in wheeling, we are registering both them and their parents or guardians under the JJ Act (Juvenile Justice). Additionally, medical tests revealed that four individuals were under the influence of narcotics, and they had been booked under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act. Furthermore, 10 parents have been charged under the Juvenile Justice Act." he said.

A special drive against wheeling offenders was conducted from December 2 to December 12, 2024, resulting in 76 cases booked, 75 vehicles seized, and 56 arrests. Among the offenders were 15 minors, with 45 RCs seized (15 sent for suspension) and 23 DLs seized (10 sent for suspension). Additionally, 3 cases were registered under the Juvenile Justice Act and 4 under the NDPS Act, with action taken against 10 guardians. The drive aims to ensure safer roads through strict enforcement of traffic rules.

Police Commissioner, B Dayananda urged, "Our efforts will persist. Wheeling endangers both riders and others, causing immense suffering. We urge individuals to avoid reckless riding and parents to prevent minors from using motorcycles, as violations will lead to strict legal action."

Poilce Commissioner warns of strict action against wheeling and minors using motorcycles

Detailed studies, rehab programme to follow: BMRCL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the movement of all passengers in an emergency, guidelines, and space standards for the barrier-free built environment for disabled and elderly persons, etc.

"The project will yield benefits in terms of better accessibility, savings in fuel consumption, reduction in vehicle operating costs, savings in travel time, improvement in quality of life, and reduction in road accidents. Approximately 11,137 trees are likely to be cut /transplanted during construction along the proposed corridors and depots," noted the document. Two corridors that have been finalised for implementation in Phase III are JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura (corridor I) and Hosahalli to Kadabagere (Corridor II). While Corridor I is 32.15km long with 22 stations, corridor II is 12.50 km long and has 9 stations.

Committee's headache

BMRCL officials say while the agency is looking at a detailed EIA and SIA of Phase III soon, the protection of green cover will be the responsibility of the Tree Expert Committee (TEC).

"The DPR is just an outline study. However, we will do a detailed baseline study and rehabilitation program. We have floated a tender to impanel a competent agency to conduct an Environment Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment of phase III of BMRCL. The tender is in the final stages of the scrutiny. While the agency will conduct EIA and SIA, it will not dwell deeper into the aspect of green cover being impacted by the alignment. The proposal will be scrutinized by the Tree Experts Committee," said Dr Yathish Ullal, deputy general manager of the Social and Environment Management Unit, BMRCL.

However, city-based environmentalists say the dwindling green cover can only be protected when trees as a parameter are considered during the design and planning stages of any infrastructure project.

Need for change

"We need to change our current way of planning infrastructure projects and include green cover during the initial stages of such projects. BMRCL should not go about feeling the trees unless EIA and stakeholder consultation have taken place. If not, it is an unfair, unjust, and tragic proposal," said Dattatreya Devare, one of the volunteers and trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

"The majority of the BMRCL's corridors are along the median of existing highways and roads. We try to avoid parks and other intact green patches during our design and planning stages," added Dr Ullal. The summary of the DPR uploaded on the BMRCL website also shows that the proposed alignment will impact 376 structures and 703 families across both corridors.

As per the DPR, the project's social impact assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Compensation and Resettlement Package (CRP) 2019. The majority of the 376 structures are likely to be affected in Corridor I whereas the majority of families are likely to be affected in Corridor II. The Compensation and Resettlement Package has been formulated based on the guiding principles followed by BMRCL for Phase 1 and Phase 2.

The total cost of Phase III is Rs 13,722.44 crore.

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Open drain

Whitefield

Ongoing construction in Sathya Sai Layout, Whitefield, has left an open drain exposed for over three months, raising dengue concerns near a student hub.

Path blocked

Sanjaynagar

Multiple construction projects have completely obstructed the footpath, causing major inconvenience to pedestrians on KH Road between Aswathnagar and Ramaiah Hospital Road, Sanjaynagar.

Waste piles up

Dinnur Main Road

Irregular waste clearance by street sweepers on Dinnur Main Road is leading to hygiene problems.

No subsidy for 5 years: Producers stage protest

200 Kannada movies eligible for a subsidy of Rs 10 lakh each by state

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Screening of movie "Yare Koogadali" at Sangam Theatre

Kannada movie producers and directors staged a protest on Friday at Freedom Park demanding the state government release subsidies for Kannada movies. They said the state government has failed to release subsidies for Kannada movies during the last five years. They submitted a memorandum to the governor narrating the problems of Kannada movie producers due to the inordinate delay in releasing the subsidies.

The state government has increased the number of Kannada movies eligible for subsidy to 200 movies from 125 movies. Each Kannada movie among the 200 movies will get Rs 10 lakh subsidy from the state government. Kannada movies that are not dubbed or remakes are eligible for subsidies; however, the state government has not paid the subsidy for Kannada movies for the last five years.

"The government has not taken measures to release the subsidy for Kannada movies. Around 600 Kannada movies are yet to get subsidies from the state government. The delay in releasing the subsidy amount is affecting producers who are bankrolling quality movies," said Roopa Iyer, producer, director, and actor.

She said that a delegation of producers and directors met the governor and sought his direction to the state government to release the subsidy amount to benefit hundreds of producers. "We requested the governor to direct the state government to present state film awards in the same year that the movies got certificates from the Central Board of Film Certification," she said.

Wesley Brown, director and cinematographer, said the delay in releasing the subsidy for Kannada movies has caused a lot of inconvenience to the producers. "I am happy to join the delegation led by Roop Iyer, who is concerned about the welfare of Kannada movie producers. I want the government to release the subsidy amount for Kannada movies without any delay," he said.

Different Danny, a stunt master, said that many producers with whom he worked are yet to receive the subsidy. "I want the state government to release the subsidy without any delay as some of the producers are facing financial problems. The subsidy amount will mitigate their problems," he said.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

HUNTER AT EASE

A trio of cormorants relaxing on a tree stump in the Kabini River

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Towards pothole-free city: New fix takes on challenge

BBMP tests steel slag-based instant pothole repair technology at Avenue Road; new tech can repair waterlogged potholes without any dewatering tools

The potholes in the city are refusing to be fixed, in turn causing traffic congestion and leading to road accidents. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now joined hands with the Central Road Research Institute (CSIR) to fix the potholes. To address this challenge, a pilot project of steel slag-based Ecofix technology was tested by fixing the potholes on Avenue Road recently.

Officials said that Ecofix is utilised to fix the deep and shallow potholes under a live demonstration project on one of the busiest roads in the city. The repaired road surface was opened immediately for traffic movement.

Eco-friendly tool

BBMP Engineer-In-Chief BS Pralhad said, "The BBMP has successfully tested the technology via this pilot project and will utilise this for eco-friendly, sustainable road repair on the city roads. During monsoon season, when the majority of hot mix plants cannot be operated, Ecofix technology will be the boon to the city roads to carry out durable road repair in an eco-friendly manner."

How does Ecofix technology work?

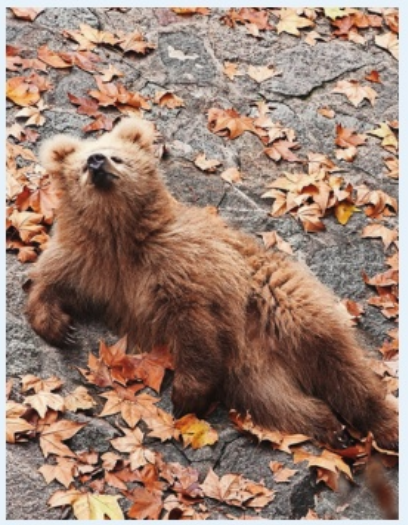
Officials said that Ecofix is developed using industrial waste of steel industries (iron and steel slag) and has the unique ability to repair the waterlogged potholes without any dewatering requirement. Conventional road repair technologies require dewatering of potholes and application of tack coat, while Ecofix can be applied even under waterlogged conditions.

In terms of durability and longevity, the repaired surface will perform better than the regular road, as Ecofix is prepared using processed iron and steel slag aggregates and specially customised binder. This technology is being used in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh.

Notably, India is the world's second-largest steel producer and generates around 19 million tonnes of steel slag annually as solid waste, and this quantity is expected to reach 60MT per annum by the end of 2030. Officials said that utilisation of Ecofix will pave the way for sustainable waste utilisation in the country by carrying out eco-friendly road maintenance and will also reduce the unsustainable mining of natural aggregates causing serious impacts on our ecosystem. — BMB

Ecofix technology test patchwork at Avenue Road in Bengaluru

DID YOU KNOW?



Adoring crowds are flocking to a zoo in Shanghai to watch Junjun, a bear cub just 11 months old, as he frolics in his enclosure playing with toys, such as a favourite tyre, or splashing in a water trough. Standing 1 m (3.3 ft) tall and weighing more than 35 kg, the brown bear's every move captivates fans, who exclaim at his resemblance to a playful puppy and admire his fluffy fur coat. Even on a cold weekday in December, when the zoo in China's commercial hub is mostly deserted, a crowd gathers at the outdoor enclosure where Junjun encounters his doting public every two days. Junjun's favourite game is racing with his keepers. — Reuters

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Here's how woman was misidentified as wife of B'luru suicide victim

Boomlive.in

A number of media outlets and widely followed social media accounts have shared the image of a woman, alleging that she is Nikita Singhania - the estranged wife of late Bengaluru-based techie, Atul Subhash who died by suicide.

BOOM found that image being shared is not of Subhash's wife, but of a different person, who also happens to be named Nikita Singhania. We accessed images of Subhash's wife, and ascertained that the viral image shows a different person, which was further confirmed to us by Subhash's brother. 34-year-old Subhash's death by suicide earlier this month has resulted in widespread outrage and debate on social media, after he left a 24-page suicide note accusing his estranged wife, her relatives, and a judge, of extortion, harassment, and corruption. Several men's rights activist accounts started sharing the image of a woman, alleging it shows Subhash's wife Nikita Singhania.

One such user shared the viral image along with excerpts from the with the caption, "Meet Nikita Singhania, the lady who slapped false cases on her husband #AtulSubhash and demanded 3 cr to settle the cases. She was being given 80000 per month by Atul for maintenance by the order of court while she herself works in Accenture. Look at the conversation in court. The law of the land has killed a bright young man."

We also found news reports by Republic and Free Press Journal on Subhash's wife, which included the same incorrect image.

Viral image of a different Nikita Singhania: Looking through the social media posts, and referring to the information in news reports about Subhash's wife Nikita Singhania, BOOM found other photos of Subhash's wife shared by social media users. We compared those photos to the selfie photo of the woman in the car and found that the facial features do not match, and that they are images of two different people. Furthermore, we also traced the Instagram account of Nikita Singhania, whose profile photo is being shared widely as that of Subhash's wife. Her now-deactivated account mentioned in the bio that she is from Raipur (Chhattisgarh) whereas news reports stated that Subhash's wife is based in a different city. BOOM reached out to Atul Subhash's brother and shared some of the photos that went viral. He identified one of the women as his estranged sister-in-law, which confirmed to us that the other image going viral is that of a different Nikita Singhania.

The story was originally published by boomlive.in (https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/bengaluru-suicide-victim-viral-image-misidentification-fact-check-27218) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective)

Hit the bed

5 Types Of Mattresses To Know About

Finding the right mattress can be a challenging experience. You can cave to the haranguings of the excited salesperson and pay outside of your budget to be stuck with a mattress that just isn't not right for you. Good sleep is an absolute necessity to be able to go through the motions of life and the mattress that fits your life and preferences is an investment in the same. Here is a list of the 5 most prevalent types so you can be sure of the mattress you get.

Innerspring

Innerspring mattresses use steel coils in the structure. The individual steel coils mean the mattresses can support your body to its shape to some degree. The coils also provide quite a bounce but a con can be the squeaky sound they will respond with to each movement. They are relatively inexpensive but also tarnish faster.
These conventional mattresses are made with many different styles of coils and can be quite versatile to suit your preferences.

Memory Foam + Gel

Initially made for spacecrafts by NASA, memory foam is a popular choice in the commercial world to make mattresses, pillows and sometimes, blankets out of. When one lies on this material, the body gradually takes the shape of their body, it can be quite soothing and work wonders for chronic pains and is a great option for side sleepers as well. One major con is just how dense memory foam can be and so it tends to trap heat. A simple solution to that is to look for one with infused Gel, which will counter the trapped heat can keep the sleeper cool.

Latex

Latex can be a natural and a much more breathable alternative to memory foam. It has similar body cradling properties, maybe not to the same extent but can also provide more of a bounce. It all comes down to preference when choosing between the two. It's best to look for one which is natural and not synthetic latex. It's is also wise to be wary of latex allergies. They come in two broad varieties; Dunlop and Talalay, which have different feels and densities.

Pillow Top

These are generally made with an innerspring foundation with an added cushiony top-layer which can be up to several inches thick. Pillow tops can provide unparalleled comfort and support, promote air flow, which means the mattress would not trap heat. There is also proper weight distribution which can ease painful conditions and be comfortable for all types of sleepers. The sprigs in these mattresses do wear out and compromise their overall longevity.

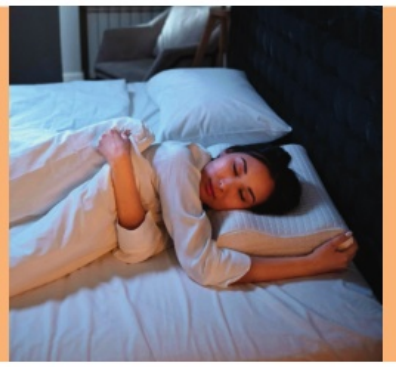
Poly Foam

Poly-foam or Polyurethane Foam is synthetically made with a petroleum base and is a much cheaper alternative to both memory foam and latex. These come in varying densities but are still generally less dense than the other two. These react differently to body weight and do not have the same body contouring effects and also tend to have a shorter life span.

—Femina

FAQS

How to pick the perfect mattress?
Equipping yourself with knowledge by carrying out rigorous research is always a plus. Make a list of the issues you have with your existing mattress and then go through the options and shortlist the mattresses correct for you. Test them out at the shops and go to different brands to get an idea of the price ranging. Then opt for a mattress that not only fulfils your requirements but also fits into your budget. You can never be too picky when choosing a mattress.



Which is the best mattress for joint and back pain relief?
The best mattresses which can help you get some pain relief are Memory Foam, Latex, Gel, Orthopaedic mattress and Hybrid. Depending on your budget and other requirements, pick between these five options.

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Plot buyers eye Nelamangala for its connectivity & value

Nelamangala's affordability, accessibility, and green environment make it preferred choice for plot buyers amid rising demand and infrastructure growth

Nelamangala is emerging as one of the most preferred destinations for buying plots. With its strategic location, strong infrastructure development, and potential for future growth, Nelamangala is gaining increasing attention from investors, homebuyers, and property developers alike. The town's accessibility, affordable land prices, and proximity to key commercial hubs make it an attractive option for those seeking residential plots at competitive prices.

Sources said that one of the key factors contributing to Nelamangala's rise as a popular property destination is its excellent connectivity. The town is strategically situated on the Bengaluru-Hassan Highway (NH 75) and Bengaluru-Mumbai highway, providing easy access to the city centre and other parts of Karnataka. Nelamangala also benefits from its proximity to Devanahalli Airport. Suresh Reddy, a real estate developer said, "Nelamangala offers a perfect balance of affordability and connectivity. Its location along major highways and proximity to Bengaluru's expanding infrastructure make it a great place for those looking to invest in plots. In the last two years, demand for plots in this area has been steadily increasing. In addition to its connectivity, Nelamangala's affordability is another major attraction. Compared to Bengaluru's central and peripheral areas, land prices in Nelamangala are still relatively low, making it an ideal choice for investors looking for cost-effective plots with long-term growth potential."

Rajesh Kumar, a property developer added, "Moreover, the growing infrastructure development in and around Nelamangala further enhances its appeal. The town is witnessing the construction of new roads, commercial establishments, and residential complexes, which is driving up demand for land. The proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) is expected to enhance connectivity between Nelamangala and various key areas of Bengaluru. With the government's focus on improving infrastructure, Nelamangala is poised to witness substantial growth. We're seeing an increase in the number of people buying plots here as they anticipate strong returns on their investment in the coming years."

Ankita Kumar, a buyer, said, "Nelamangala's status as a preferred destination for buying plots is also attributed to its pleasant environment and quality of life. The town offers a more peaceful, green setting compared to the hustle and bustle of the city, making it an ideal location for people looking to escape the urban chaos while still being within reach of Bengaluru's amenities. People are increasingly looking for open spaces and a quieter environment to build their homes, and Nelamangala provides just that. The availability of large plots and the clean and lush green environment make it a desirable and preferrable choice for families."

-Prakash VL

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Gunjur leads with 69% surge in residential property prices

In an interesting shift, some outlying areas have seen higher price growth over the past six years than many prime locations in the top seven cities, finds latest ANAROCK research. For example, Bengaluru's peripheral area Gunjur saw average residential price take a significant 69% jump, it rose from Rs 5,030 per sq ft in 2019 to Rs 8,500 per sq ft in Q3 2024. Prime area Thanisandra Main Road, on the other hand, saw a 62% average price growth in this period - from INR 5,175 per sq ft to INR 8,400 per sq ft in Q3 2024. The area's transformation due to better connectivity, proximity to key business hubs, and infrastructural upgrades likely contributed to this price rise, making it a preferred choice for buyers seeking a balance between prime location and relative affordability.

The report states that Bengaluru's peripheral area of Devanahalli also saw prices grow 49% in the last 6 years from Rs 4,982 per sq ft (2019) to Rs 7,400 per sq ft (Q3 2024). Prime location Electronic City saw just 38% price growth in this period, from Rs 4,658 per sq ft (2019) to Rs 6,450 per sq ft (Q3 2024).

Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chairman of ANAROCK Group, says, "In NCR's peripheral Noida Expressway, average residential prices rose 66% in the last six years, from INR 5,075 per sq ft in 2019 to INR 8,400 per sq ft in Q3 2024. Prime area Raj Nagar Extension saw 55% growth in this period, from INR 3,260 per sq ft in 2019 to INR 5,050 per sq ft in Q3 2024. However, this is by no means a uniform trend.

For instance, the prime area of Dwarka Expressway in Delhi saw a significant 93% jump in average residential prices, from INR 5,359 per sq ft in 2019 to INR 10,350 per sq ft in Q3 2024." Overall, average residential prices have been rising across cities in the last six years. Many peripheral areas in the top cities outshone prime areas because their scope of price appreciation was higher than in prime areas; the latter already saw appreciable price growth in previous years. Also, improved connectivity in many peripheral areas have boosted their liveability. "The last few years have seen several luxury projects launched in these peripheries to meet demand. Inevitably, average housing prices rose there. With sufficient land available in the peripheries, developers have zeroed in on them to launch large state-of-art projects there. Improved connectivity has made it feasible for buyers to live in green open spaces," says Kumar.

Elevated flyover to bypass Kanakapura bottlenecks

BBMP proposes 10-km flyover to ease traffic, enhance connectivity, and boost property value

To address the growing traffic congestion on Kanakapura Road, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans a 10-km-long elevated flyover connecting Banashankari to the NICE Road. Traffic on Kanakapura Road has intensified in recent years. While the metro line has already been constructed along this route, building grade-separated roads is no longer feasible. Consequently, BBMP plans an elevated flyover parallel to Kanakapura Road to mitigate the congestion. Sources said that Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar has instructed the BBMP Chief Commissioner to prepare a feasibility report and a detailed project report (DPR). BBMP's planning department is already working on the project.

Proposed route along the Pipeline Road

An official said, "Since the metro occupies a significant portion of Kanakapura Road, constructing the flyover along the same route would require extensive land acquisition, making it prohibitively expensive. Instead, the flyover is proposed along the Cauvery Pipeline Road, which supplies water from Thorekadanahalli to Bengaluru. This route predominantly consists of government land, with minimal private land acquisition required for the ramps and connections. The project is expected to cost between 1,000 crore and 1,200 crore. The state government plans to allocate special funding for this initiative. Hence, the proposed elevated flyover spans a length of 10 kilometres and will feature four lanes to accommodate smooth traffic flow. It is planned to start at the BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply Sewerage Board) Pumping Station in Banashankari and extend up to the NICE Road at the Kanakapura Road extension. Along the route, 4 to 5 up and down ramps will be constructed to ensure convenient access and exit points for commuters. With this ambitious project, BBMP aims to significantly reduce traffic congestion and provide a seamless commuting experience for residents and travellers along Kanakapura Road."

Meanwhile, realtors said that the proposed 10-kilometre elevated flyover along Kanakapura Road is set to significantly enhance the region's connectivity, making it a prime attraction for property buyers. As one of Bengaluru's rapidly developing corridors, Kanakapura Road has witnessed increasing traffic congestion due to a surge in residential and commercial developments. The flyover project, extending from Banashankari to the NICE Road, promises to streamline travel by bypassing the notorious bottlenecks, reducing commute times, and boosting overall accessibility.

"This infrastructure upgrade translates into enhanced value and livability for property buyers. The improved connectivity will make commuting to key hubs, including IT parks, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities, more convenient. Reduced travel times and smoother traffic flow will also encourage more families and professionals to invest in the area, fueling demand and appreciation in property prices. Additionally, the presence of 4-5 strategically placed ramps along the flyover will ensure easy access to neighbourhoods along the route, making residential developments even more attractive. Moreover, this project is expected to trigger further infrastructural and commercial development along Kanakapura Road, including better public amenities, retail outlets, and recreational spaces. For prospective buyers, these enhancements offer a convenient lifestyle but also ensure a high return on investment," said Deepak Kumar, a buyer.

–Prakash VL

Indian real estate surpasses $4.8 trillion

India's real estate market is poised for monumental growth, with its valuation expected to exceed USD 4.8 trillion by 2047, according to a report by CREDAI and a private firm. The sector's contribution to the GDP is anticipated to jump from the current seven per cent to over 18 percent of India's projected USD 26 trillion GDP. The industry, presently valued at USD 300 billion, is set to grow at an annual rate of 10-12 per cent, outperforming several other economic segments.

Residential & commercial sector forecasts

The residential segment will dominate the sector until 2032, making up 75 per cent of the total market share. However, its share is expected to reduce to 58 per cent by 2047, with commercial, industrial, and warehousing sectors gaining traction. The commercial sector is projected to account for 20 per cent of the market.

Proptech to revolutionise real estate

India's prop-tech segment is on a rapid growth path, with market size anticipated to climb from USD 10.5 billion in 2023 to USD 600 billion by 2047. Technologies like AI, IoT, and Building Information Modelling (BIM) are driving this transformation, streamlining operations, and boosting transparency in the sector. **– Times Property**

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HEALTH TIP: Eating foods rich in antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins such as B and C can help reduce stress

Establish clear boundaries for work and personal time. Allow yourself moments of rest without guilt

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HOW TO CATCH A COLD (OR NOT)

Why winter makes you more vulnerable to colds

You've probably heard "Don't go outside in the winter with your hair wet or without a coat; you'll catch a cold."

That's not exactly true. As with many things, the reality is more complicated. Here's the distinction: Being cold isn't why you get a cold. But it is true that cold weather makes it easier to catch respiratory viruses such as the cold and flu.

Research also shows that lower temperatures are associated with higher COVID-19 rates.

As a professor of nursing with a background in public health, I'm often asked about infectious disease spread, including the relationship between cold and catching a cold. So here's a look at what actually happens.

Many viruses, including rhinovirus – the usual culprit for the common cold – influenza, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, remain infectious longer and replicate faster in colder temperatures and at lower humidity levels. This, coupled with the fact that people spend more time indoors and in close contact with others during cold weather, are common reasons that germs are more likely to spread.

The flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, tend to have a defined fall and winter seasonality. However, because of the emergence of new COVID-19 variants and immunity from previous infections and vaccinations decreasing over time, COVID-19 is not the typical cold-weather respiratory virus. As a case in point, COVID-19 infection rates have surged every summer since 2020.

Virus transmission is easier when it's cold

More specifically, cold weather can change the outer membrane of the influenza virus, making it more solid and rubbery. Scientists believe that the rubbery coating makes person-to-person transmission of the virus easier.

It's not just cold winter air that causes a problem. Air that is dry in addition to cold has been linked to flu outbreaks. That's because dry winter air further helps the influenza virus to remain infectious longer. Dry air, which is common in the winter, causes the water found in respiratory droplets to evaporate more quickly. This results in smaller particles, which are capable of lasting longer and traveling farther after you cough or sneeze.

How your immune system responds during cold weather also matters a great deal. Inhaling cold air may adversely affect the immune response in your respiratory tract, which makes it easier for viruses to take hold. That's why wearing a scarf over your nose and mouth may help prevent a cold because it warms the air that you inhale.

Also, most people get less sunlight in the winter. That is a problem because the sun is a major source of vitamin D, which is essential for immune system health. Physical activity, another factor, also tends to drop during the winter. People are three times more likely to delay exercise in snowy or icy conditions.

Instead, people spend more time indoors. That usually means more close contact with others, which leads to disease spread. Respiratory viruses generally spread within a 6-foot radius of an infected person.

In addition, cold temperatures and low humidity dry out your eyes and the mucous membranes in your nose and throat. Because viruses that cause colds, flu and COVID-19 are typically inhaled, the virus can attach more easily to these impaired, dried-out passages.

What you can do

The bottom line is that being wet and cold doesn't make you sick. That being said, there are strategies to help prevent illness all year long:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face, something people do between nine and 23 times an hour.
- Stay hydrated. Eight glasses a day of water is a good goal, but that could be more or less depending on lifestyle and the size of the person.
- Eat a well-balanced diet. Dark green, leafy vegetables are rich in immune system-supporting vitamins, while eggs, fortified milk, salmon and tuna have vitamin D.
- Stay physically active, even during the winter.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Clean hard, high-touch surfaces in your home often.
- If your nose or throat gets dry in the winter, consider using a humidifier.
- Get your annual flu and COVID-19 vaccine.

Following these tips can ensure you have a healthy winter season.

(Libby Richards, Purdue University, The Conversation)

MIND, BODY & HEART

All you need to know about...

Blood clotting

Air pollution danger
A long-term exposure to air pollution could increase risk of blood clots in deep veins by 39 to over 100%, according to a study that followed over 6,650 adults in the US for 17 years.

In deep veins
Blood clotting conditions in deep veins are collectively known as 'venous thromboembolism', and if left untreated can block flow and cause serious complications.

Study
Researchers, including those from the University of Minnesota, analysed data on patients hospitalised for venous thromboembolism and air pollution, collected through community-level monitoring, such as by taking samples from the participants' homes.
The adults in the study lived in or near six major metropolitan areas, including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.
Of the group, 3.7% (248 adults) were found to develop blood clots in veins located deep within the body, or deep veins, chances for which were linked to 39% to over 100% increase in risk due to exposure to PM2.5 and oxides of nitrogen.
The findings are published in the journal Blood.

Nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5
While exposure to higher levels of PM2.5 pollution could increase risk of venous thromboembolism by up to 39%, people exposed to higher levels oxides of nitrogen and nitrogen dioxide could experience a 120-174% increase in risk, the researchers found.
Being exposed to air pollution is known to increase risk of inflammation and contribute to blood clotting, which is in turn linked to cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.
The researchers said that this is the largest, most comprehensive study in the US reporting on the link between developing blood clots in deep veins and exposure to different types of air pollutants. **PTI**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Mastering bag care & keeping them wrinkle-free, for years to come

Bags are more than just accessories; they are our trusted companions on our daily adventures. Whether you own a branded collection of designer handbags or a simple tote, mastering the art of bag care is essential to ensure they stay in impeccable condition and wrinkle-free for many years to come. "The care of these treasures is not just a routine; it's an art, a testament to the fusion of fashion and preservation," says Vani Talwar, Co-founder of Tidy Up who shares some key steps in maintaining your handbags' allure and integrity.

Use dustbags: Preserving your handbags' elegance begins with a simple yet impactful step: embracing dust bags. Choose wisely when it comes to dust bag materials, steering clear of plastics that can harm delicate surfaces and the environment. Embrace breathable fabrics like cotton, allowing your bags to rest comfortably while remaining shielded.

Organise and declutter: Whether enhancing designer classics or everyday essentials, the path to pristine preservation starts with organisation. Declutter by parting ways with items that no longer serve a purpose and continue straining your bag's form and function. With well-designed compartments, organisers create an oasis of order, offering quick access with minimal handling.

Shield your bags: The journey of bag care extends beyond the physical; it's like a ritual. Small actions make significant differences. Shield your bags from lotions and fragrances by allowing absorption before contact. Handle stains and colour transfers delicately with specialised solutions for luxury materials only. Protect against water exposure, a potential hazard, by avoiding direct contact, especially during monsoon seasons. Sustainable plastic rain covers offer additional protection in the Monsoon, ensuring your bags stand the test of time.

Smart storage: Managing a burgeoning bag collection requires ingenuity. Resist the allure of boxing up bags; instead, let them breathe. While they might seem protected, bags need to breathe and risk damage like sticky patent leather, cracking, or molding. In tight spaces, embrace shelf dividers for wrinkle-free elegance, while spacious walls invite decorative hooks that stylishly

safeguard your bags. While using hooks, prioritise strap strength to avert damage, enabling your bags to retain their pristine state. Space should be maximised to grant your bags the freedom they deserve.

Remember with a little care you can expand the longevity and beauty of your beloved bags!

—Femina

Sandalwood thieves nabbed, precious timber seized

2 arrested in separate operations, over 260 kg of sandalwood valued at Rs 20 lakh seized

KAUSHIK JN

Over 260 kg of sandalwood seized valued at nearly Rs 20 lakh by Bengaluru police

Atiya Firdos
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In a major crackdown on sandalwood theft and smuggling, Bengaluru police arrested two individuals in separate operations, recovering a total of 261.8 kilograms of sandalwood valued at nearly Rs 20 lakh. Both cases underscore the growing menace of sandalwood smuggling in the region, with investigations ongoing to apprehend other members of these criminal networks.

Theft at Bangalore University campus

The arrest stemmed from a complaint filed at the Jnanabharathi Police Station on November 14, 2024. The security in charge of Bangalore University's Jnanabharati campus reported hearing suspicious tree-cutting noises during his midnight patrol in the forested area of the campus. Upon investigating, he spotted four individuals attempting to steal sandalwood. Although the suspects fled the scene upon being confronted, police recovered 115.5 kg of sandalwood, tree-cutting equipment, and a mobile phone left behind by the perpetrators.

Using the mobile phone, the investigators traced the identity of one of the suspects, Sakkaya (34), a daily wage labourer who also engaged in sandalwood theft for additional income. During interrogation, Sakkaya admitted to the theft and revealed that three of his relatives from his village were accomplices in the crime. These individuals, who remain on the run, were reportedly involved in smuggling sandalwood to Ramanagara.

The accused has a history of involvement in similar cases, with previous complaints filed against him at Jnanabharathi and Bellandur Police Stations. The police managed to arrest one of the culprits, while the search for the other three continues.

The seized sandalwood, valued at Rs 5 lakh, along with the tools used in the theft, is now in police custody. The court has remanded Sakkaya to five days of police custody for further investigation.

Smuggling attempt failed in Uttarahalli

In a separate incident, Subramanyapura Police intercepted a pickup truck based on a tip-off about sandalwood smuggling. The vehicle, travelling through Uttarahalli on December 5, was found carrying 146.3 kg of sandalwood worth Rs 14.6 lakh. The truck driver, Sharath (25), was arrested on the spot.

Upon questioning, Sharath revealed that he was working with two accomplices, Yogesh and Chetan, who are currently absconding. The Subramanyapura Police have now intensified efforts to apprehend the absconding suspects.

13 arrested for cheating court

Halasurgate Police have arrested 13 individuals involved in a large-scale scam where they duped the court and property owners by submitting fake sureties for bail proceedings. The arrested individuals were caught after a tip-off led to a well-coordinated operation. According to an informant, a group of five to six unidentified individuals was submitting fake documents such as Aadhaar cards, Pahani (land records), and mutation papers at the court to secure bail for accused individuals.

Acting on the information, Halasurgate Police apprehended five suspects at the scene, and subsequent interrogations revealed the involvement of seven others. By the end of the day, police arrested more individuals from Mysore Bank Circle and a cyber center near Majestic. The arrested individuals confessed to their role in the scam, leading to the identification of even more accomplices.

Further interrogations over the next few days revealed a staggering amount of fake documents, including 139 counterfeit Aadhaar cards, 43 fake ration cards, 16 fake PAN cards, and land records of 35 properties in different names. Additionally, the police seized computers, printers, a lamination machine, and mobile phones used in the operation.

–BMB

Techie suicide: B'luru cops in Jaunpur

A four-member team of Bengaluru Police, including one woman police personnel, arrived in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur which is the residence of the wife of Atul Subhash, the techie who died by suicide and pasted a notice.

"There are reasonable grounds to interrogate you to ascertain the facts and circumstances. You are directed to appear before the investigating officer at Bengaluru within 3 days," reads the notice

The father of Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash who died by suicide, said his son had been "broken from inside" after multiple cases were filed against him and his family by his wife.

–ANI

Maternal deaths: DNB specialists on the job

The Department of Health and Family Welfare said that it is taking comprehensive measures to reduce maternal deaths in government hospitals across the state. As part of these efforts, the department has authorised the appointment of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) specialists in district and taluk hospitals to improve access to expert care. In 2024-25, 348 maternal deaths were recorded until November.

Responding to Bangalore Mirror news article, "Rise in Maternal Deaths Cause Alarm," health department officials said that they have taken up a number of steps to improve maternal healthcare across the state. The state has focused on enhancing infrastructure by expanding Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) and Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), adding more beds and resources to accommodate growing needs. "Moreover, the department has sanctioned an additional 450 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) beds for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. Regular state and district-level audits are also being conducted to identify gaps in healthcare delivery and implement necessary improvements to reduce maternal and neonatal complications," said an official.

–BMB

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Actress

Artists
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Dr Jayant Kumar Das-Sitar Artist, Shaktidhar-Flutist,
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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Roselina Sundari Kumari Naidu W/O, Kuppuswamy Harikishen Naidu R/o No 15/7, 3rd Cross Road, E Street, 1st Floor, Jaibharath Nagar, Vivekananda Nagar, Maruthi Seva Nagar, Bangalore – 560033. Karnataka have changed my name to Sundari Naidu.

I, Anju Pal R/O Balaji pristine Flat No 612, C Block, Whitefield, Blr-560066 changed my name from Anju Rani to Anju Pal for all future purposes

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I Chandra Bai W/o S Raju R/o Frazer Town, Bangalore have changed my name from Chandra Tejraj to Chandra Bai for all future purposes

I, Ejaz Pasha R/o 5/8 3rd Floor, A Cross Bismillah Nagar B'lore-560029 have changed my name to Ajaz Pasha.

I, Vinayak Shetty R/o C-201, Durga Petals, Outer Ring Road, Doddanekundi, Bangalore 560037 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aadhya Vinayak Shetty to Aadhya Shetty.

I Prashantha Sreenivasachar Adoni S/o Sreenivasachar R/O No 68 Seetha Lakshmi Nivas, Kamadhenu k shetra, Kammasandra B'lore 562123 have changed my name to A S Prashanth for all purposes

I Mahaboob Pasha Margunta Ameer S/o Ameer Pasha R/O No 55/2, 5th Cross, Manjunath nagar, new Guddahalli, Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Mahaboob Pasha for all purposes.

I Peer Khan S/O Safdar Hussain #10 6th C Ashok Nagar Blr25 have changed my name to Peer Khan Safdar Hussain for all purposes

I Karun Cherukara Samuel S/O, Pramila Mathew R/o Maple Manor, No 1 Artillery Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore – 560008. Karnataka have changed my name to Karun Samuel.

I Sreelatha Santhakumari D/O, Santhakumari Amma R/o Sree, 1a Cross, Trinity Enclave Banjara Main Road,horamavu,bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to Sreelatha Sankar.

I, Vinayak Shetty R/o C-201, Durga Petals, Outer Ring Road, Doddanekundi, Bangalore 560037 have changed my minor son's name from Atharv Vinayak Shetty to Atharv Shetty .

I, Sraddha Ramaling Birge Patil W/o, Vivekanand Biradar R/o #201, 2nd Cross,2nd Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to Sraddha Patil for all purposes.

I Neerav Kamal Jain S/O, Kamal Jain R/o B-64, Diamond District, Kodihalli Airport Road, Bangalore 560008 have changed my name to Neerav Jain.

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Fan murder: Bail to Darshan, Pavithra, all other accused

An account of what transpired; who said what in High Court

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The High Court granted bail to actors Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and other co-accused in the Renukaswamy murder case on December 13. Justice S Vishwajith Shetty issued a brief order stating, "Petitions allowed". The detailed order is pending. The court had previously reserved its judgement after conducting comprehensive hearings with all parties.

The accused individuals, including Darshan, Pavitra, Anu Kumar, Lakshman M, V Vinay, Jagadeesh, Pradoosh S Rao and Nagaraju R, approached the High Court for bail following rejection by the sessions court. Keshavamurthy had received bail earlier, whilst Darshan obtained interim medical bail for surgery.

File photos of Pavithra Gowda and Darshan being arrested

Special Public Prosecutor Prasanna Kumar opposed the bail applications, stating, "There is strong prima facie case against the accused. This is a clear case of murder and not a case of simple assault or anything else." Kumar indicated that Renukaswamy was deceptively transported from Chitradurga to Bengaluru. According to the accused's statement, the deceased was instructed to meet Darshan and admit to his actions for release.

Regarding the abduction charge under Section 364 of IPC, the prosecution stated, "It is not the case of anybody that A-4 and other accused were known to the deceased so he went with them from Chitradurga to Bengaluru. They were all strangers, milord."

The prosecution presented technical evidence, including CCTV footage showing vehicles at the shed occupied by Darshan and Pavitra, alongside call data records indicating the accused persons' locations. Addressing defence arguments about the death location, Kumar stated, "This is a crime scene milord, nobody will bring a doctor and confirm whether the deceased has died." He highlighted the deceased's external injuries and noted, "Even a vehicle parked inside the shed had blood of the deceased."

> **This is a clear case of murder and not a case of simple assault or anything else** –Prasanna Kumar, Special Public Prosecutor

Kumar noted that despite receiving inappropriate messages, Gowda neither blocked the deceased on Instagram nor filed police complaints. He stated, "Instead A-1 (Pavitra) sent a message from her account to the deceased mentioning---Drop your number. Their case is that he kept on harassing me (her) by sending messages. But the prosecution case is that from February, the chat starts. She did not block the account. Thereafter, on June 5, Pavitra (A-1), since the deceased did not respond, gave the mobile number of A-3 saying it is her number and telling the deceased to 'please call on this no'". Regarding conspiracy, he explained, "The accused (Darshan and Pavitra) had knowledge of the deceased being brought to Bengaluru..."

The prosecution addressed arrest procedures and evidence recording delays with reference to Supreme Court judgements. Senior Advocate CV Nagesh, representing Darshan, characterised the deceased as disruptive to society due to inappropriate messaging behaviour. Nagesh stated, "Messages were shared not only to me but several women. I am certainly not saying that this can be the reason for his death...A man (deceased) who has no respect, no regard, does not want to respect woman in society, a lawless person he has been glorified, made a national hero in the case while degrading my image in the society."

2-wheeler, mobile phone thief arrested

The Mico Layout police have arrested a man involved in the theft of two-wheelers and mobile phones, recovering stolen items worth ₹5.60 lakh.

A complaint was filed on November 24 by a resident of a PG in BTM Layout, Kuvempu Nagar after a two-wheeler, parked in front of the PG in the evening of November 23 was stolen.

Acting on the complaint, police initiated an investigation and, on December 5, apprehended a suspect near Arekere Samrat Layout. At the time of arrest, the accused was found in possession of one stolen two-wheeler and 10 mobile phones. Upon interrogation, the suspect confessed to the theft and revealed involvement in similar crimes across Bengaluru.

Further investigation led to the recovery of an additional stolen two-wheeler, parked near a vacant lot next to Vivekananda Maidan, BTM Layout. The police also seized 30 mobile phones from the accused's residence in Bannerghatta.

With the arrest, two two-wheeler theft cases reported under the Mico Layout Police Station jurisdiction were solved. —BMB

Burglars nabbed

The Banaswadi police have apprehended three individuals suspected of involvement in multiple house burglaries and thefts. The arrests led to the recovery of 180 grams of gold jewellery, 4.8 kg of silver articles, and a stolen two-wheeler, with a total value of ₹18 lakh.

The complainant, who resides at Sampanna Layout near Kammanahalli Main Road, reported that their house had been burgled while they were away in Vellore from October 30 to November 2. The burglars broke into the house, pried open a cupboard locker, and stole 108 grams of gold jewellery, 300 grams of silver items, and ₹15,000 in cash. A complaint was accordingly filed on November 3.

During a routine patrolling on November 24, the police stopped three individuals riding a two-wheeler without a license plate. Suspecting, the police questioned and the trio confessed that it was a stolen vehicle, further interrogation revealed their involvement in multiple house burglaries and thefts, leading to their arrest.

Police discovered that the stolen gold and silver items had been sold to a jewellery manufacturing and polishing shop in Chickpet, the authorities recovered 180 grams of gold and 4.8 kg of silver from the shop. —BMB

IN BRIEF

'Don't treat hoardings issue casually'

The High Court of Karnataka expressed strong disapproval on Thursday regarding the absence of penalty provisions in the proposed bye-law for unauthorised flex and hoarding installations. The court warned the State government and BBMP against treating this matter casually.

The court highlighted that Bengaluru's struggle with illegal advertisements and flexes has been a persistent issue. It noted with concern that even the new proposed bylaws lack provisions for penalising those who illegally install flexes and hoardings. A division bench, led by Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind, addressed this matter during a PIL hearing. The court had initiated this suo motu petition in July, addressing BBMP's failure to control illegal hoardings despite previous court directives from 2017 regarding illegal advertisement displays citywide.

The bench noted that bye-law 15 (1) (iii) of the proposed Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Advertisement) Bye-laws, 2024 includes penalties for illegal hoardings on private property. However, the court expressed disappointment that similar penalties were absent for violations in public spaces, with only removal provisions without written notice.

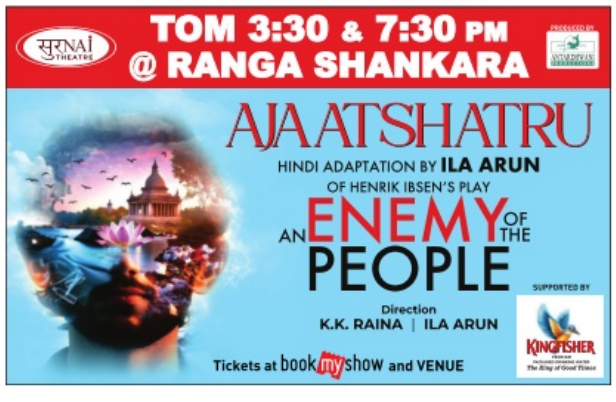
The bench emphasised the necessity for deterrent measures against unauthorised advertisements that endanger traffic and public safety. They requested both the Government and BBMP to address their concerns effectively. These observations followed the bench's review of the BBMP (Advertisement) Bye-Laws, 2024, which requires court approval before gazette notification. The court had previously restricted the Government and BBMP from implementing these bylaws without permission. Previous court directions had explicitly stated the expectation for bylaws to include deterrent penalties against defaulters and wrongdoers. The next hearing is scheduled for January 16, 2025.

Verdict in English and Kannada

The High Court has taken a significant step by delivering a judgment in both English and Kannada, expressing its inability to indefinitely await executive action under Article 348 regarding regional language usage in courts.

Justices Krishna S Dixit and CM Joshi clarified, "New trend we want to set in...This is not a translation. We have written the order in Kannada and English. Just like poet Rabindranath Tagore used to write poems in Bengali also and English also." They emphasised the importance of making court orders accessible to the public.

Whilst Article 348(1)(a) establishes English as the language for Supreme Court and High Court proceedings, the bench noted this isn't exclusive. They referenced subsection (2), which permits state governors to authorise regional languages with presidential consent. Justice Dixit noted the authorities' inaction on this matter and mentioned the celebration of 'Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas' on December 11. The judgment, delivered in the appeal of Nanjavidoothan Swamiji, was prepared entirely in both languages. When a legal practitioner commented on improved public understanding, the bench concurred with "Indeed." Justice CM Joshi highlighted that the Supreme Court advocates for regional language priority, noting that around 2,400 SC judgments have been translated into Kannada. —Rachana Ramesh



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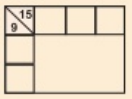
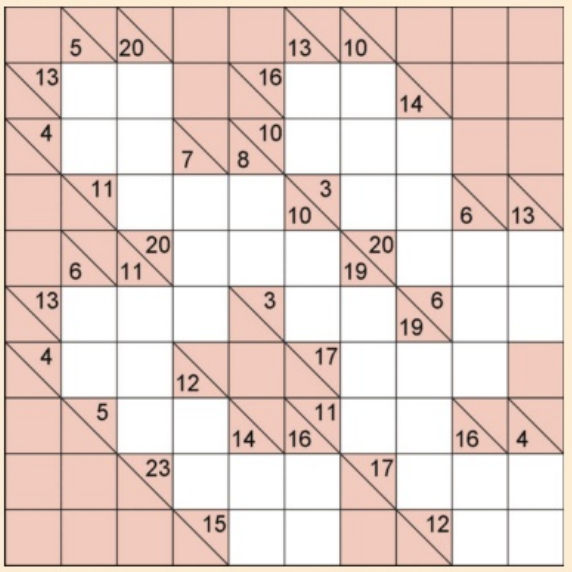
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

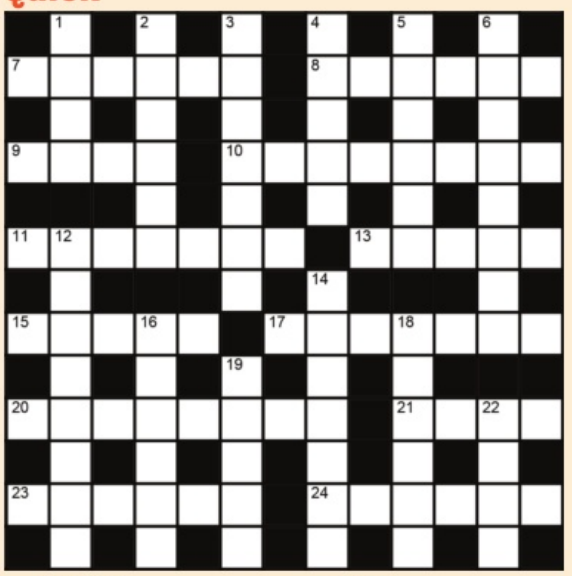


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Peak (6)
8 Vagrants (6)
9 Wild country (4)
10 Lingered aimlessly in or about a place (8)
11 Surgical knife (7)
13 One Middle East nation (5)
15 Den (5)
17 Mended or repaired (7)
20 Navigation guide (8)
21 India's ___ capital: Bangalore for sure (4)
23 Misbehaves or becomes temperamental (4,2)
24 Proved false (6)

DOWN

1 Ballet skirt (4)
2 Capital of Manipur (6)
3 Pursued surreptitiously (7)
4 Flight of steps (5)
5 Only just (6)
6 Physical desire as for food (8)
12 Fail to impress? (3,2,3)
14 Kenya's capital (7)
16 Stylishly clothed? (6)
18 Political cliques (6)
19 Halts (5)
22 Female sheep (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

XGC RCE XP UKKPJXWHUXE UA MUJAX HUQUFO W HUMC ZPJXG JCKCKICJUFO.

Linemaro

What are you doing the rest of your life? Because I want to spend it with you

Mindchow

Successful men follow the same advice they prescribe for others

Joke of the day

Never play leap frong with a unicorn

Loop

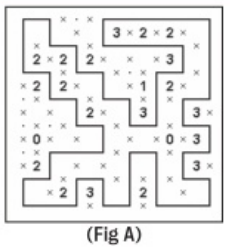
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

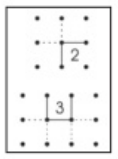
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

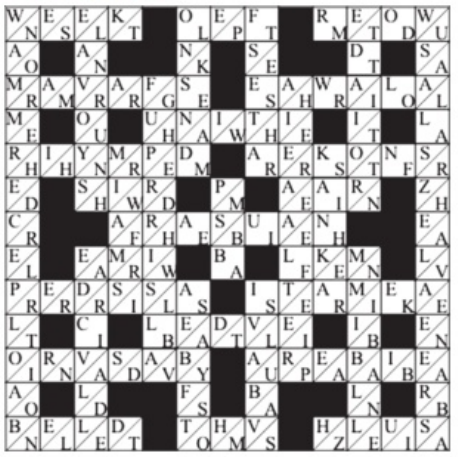


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7	M			
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Oread; 6 Me sob; 7 Maine; 8 Dee Us; 9 Or err

DOWN

1 A be as; 2 Drum E; 3 So ire; 4 Donor; 5 Me ere

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the bottom grid?

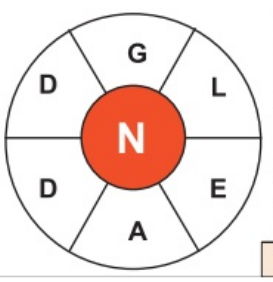
3	5	4	8
1	11	7	3
2	6	1	12

4	7	8	13
5	14	9	11
9	7	4	13

1	2	4	5
4	3	2	8
7	1	3	1

2	3	0	3
3	8	5	5
5	5	2	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3				5		
7				5				6
		5	6	1	7	9		
2			8		9			7
	8						3	
5			4		1			9
		7	5	4	6	2		
6				9				1
		9				7		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

3 3 7 8

Medium = 24

3 4 8 9

Hard = 18

2 8 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

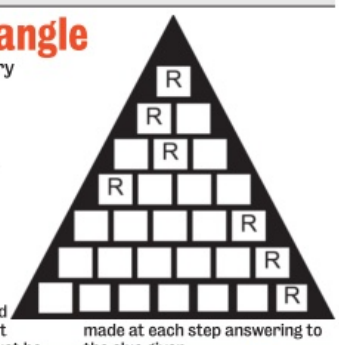
Differences: 1. Bush is different. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Arm is not showing. 4. Cap is different. 5. Zipper is added to jacket. 6. Mortar is missing from brick.

Riddler

Blade to blade I always win, My foe laid low and even. Yard by yard through thick and thin, I'm busiest in season. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Concerning
3 Dander
4 Ceremony
5 Not our
6 German dictator
7 Less heavy

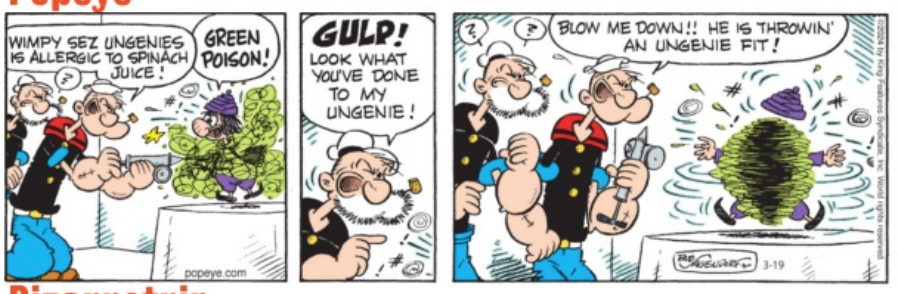


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WIMPY SEZ UNGENIES IS ALLERGIC TO SPINACH JUICE!
GREEN POISON!
GULP!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY UNGENIE!
BLOW ME DOWN!! HE IS THROWIN' AN UNGENIE FIT!
popeye.com
3-19

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

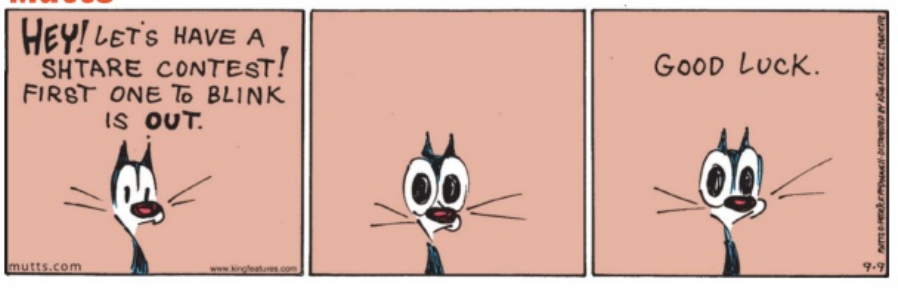
Hart of the city

I TALKED TO A GIRL AT THE COMIC SHOP THE OTHER DAY. YES, SHE WAS AN EMPLOYEE, BUT THAT STILL COUNTS!
BUT SERIOUSLY, COMICS AND GAME STORES ARE WAY MORE DIVERSE THESE DAYS. YOU'VE GOT NERDS OF ALL GENDERS, GEEKS OF ALL RACES, AND DWEEBS OF ALL ECONOMIC CLASSES.
ALL UNITED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF SHOWER AVOIDANCE.
I'M BRENT, AND THAT'S MY TIME!
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT BOOKSTORE FIRE OVER IN WESTVIEW, LILLIAN.
THE VILLAGE BOOKSMITH
BESIDES, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... WORRYING IS ONLY BORROWING TROUBLE.
TOO LATE... I'VE JUST TAKEN OUT A THIRTY-YEAR MORTGAGE!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel low on energy, and health issues might impact your daily work. You could experience mysterious fears, making you emotional and sensitive. You must avoid driving rashly or engaging in adventure activities. You may find yourself drawn to the occult; visiting a religious place and praying can bring you relief.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A delightful day with family awaits you today. Romantic moments with your spouse can strengthen your bond. You might spend money on artefacts or home decor for renovations. Social events and parties could keep you engaged. However, it is advised that you review all documents carefully before investing in fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You are likely to feel happy and energised today. Self-exploration and analysis may boost your confidence, making you fearless and prepared to tackle challenges. It is advised to exercise patience when making financial decisions for your business. Lovebirds will cherish moments of joy together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You are likely to feel happy and energised today. Self-exploration and analysis may boost your confidence, making you fearless and prepared to tackle challenges. It is advised to exercise patience when making financial decisions for your business. Lovebirds will cherish moments of joy together.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a good day. Your business plans are likely to succeed with support from your subordinates. Attending social or family gatherings could expand your network. You may go on short business-related trips; this may prove beneficial in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Financially, today looks promising. Past investments might yield returns, and you'll likely control unnecessary expenses, boosting savings. Lovebirds should maintain a polite tone to avoid misunderstandings with their partners.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you might be occupied with matters involving siblings and relatives. Collaborating with them could help you start a new venture. A new order or project may benefit your family business, and your network could play a key role in completing tasks successfully. Minor efforts might lead to significant gains.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may feel like a challenging day as negative thoughts cloud your mind. Impatience and arrogance might hinder decision-making, making you feel stuck. Seeking elders' blessings can help you overcome these messy situations. You must avoid investments in stagnant assets. Lovebirds should steer clear of unnecessary arguments.

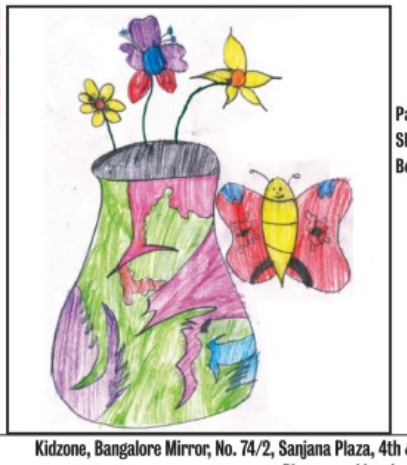
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the day might start on a messy note, but blessings from elders can bring focus and clarity. You'll find essential resources to complete projects. Income sources are likely to increase, and losses may turn into profits, improving your financial health.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, a big order from a new client could enhance liquidity in your business. Meeting an influential person might open doors to growth opportunities. A stronger bond with your boss may lead to promotions, and your reputation is set to rise.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a peaceful day. Blessings from elders may bring patience and calmness. A visit to a spiritual place could provide peace of mind. You may consider donating to a spiritual cause. Opportunities for overseas travel might also arise.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Balancing work and family life might feel challenging today. But with patience, you can navigate through messy situations. It is advised to avoid arrogance and ego in interactions with your spouse to protect emotional bonds. Partnership issues may find resolution. Singles should take their time before making marriage-related decisions.

KIDZONE



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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
35[√/3][√/3]
35×3
105

RIDDLER
A lawn mower

BULL'S EYE
angel, angle, angled, dangle, DANGLED, dean, GLADDEN, gland, gleam, glen, laden, land, landed, lane, lean, lend

QUOTE UNCODE
The key to immortality is first living a life worth remembering.
— Socrates

FAST FIVE

A	D	O	R	E
B	E	S	O	M
S	U	E	D	E
A	M	I	N	E
E	R	R	O	R

STRIKE OUT

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QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
11. Numbers in the top right hand grid equal the sum of the numbers in corresponding positions in the upper and lower left hand grids, and numbers in the lower right hand grid equal the difference between corresponding positions in the upper and lower left hand grids.

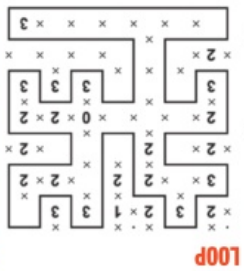
SUDOKU

8	4	9	1	2	3	7	6	5
6	5	2	7	9	8	3	4	1
3	1	7	5	4	6	2	9	8
5	7	6	4	3	1	8	2	9
9	8	1	2	7	5	6	3	4
2	3	4	8	6	9	1	5	7
4	2	5	6	1	7	9	8	3
7	9	8	3	5	2	4	1	6
1	6	3	9	8	4	5	7	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ra, Ire, Rite, Their, Hitler, Lighter.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 3 + 7 − 3 = 15
Medium
4 × 3 − 9 × 8 = 24
Hard
8 + 8 − 7 × 2 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO

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Honoured— Priyanka Chopra honoured at Red Sea Film Festival 2024, thanks Nick Jonas, late father in heartfelt speech

'NOT HIS FAULT'

Shock at Allu Arjun arrest; fellow actors convey disbelief

Several actors came out in support of Allu Arjun after his arrest in connection with the death of a woman during the Pushpa 2: The Rule premiere at Sandhya Theatre in Hyderabad. Rashmika Mandanna expressed her disappointment over the arrest \. Taking to Instagram, Rashmika called the development "heartbreaking."

"I can't believe what I am seeing right now.. The incident that happened was an unfortunate and deeply saddening incident. However, it is disheartening to see everything being blamed on a single individual. This situation is both unbelievable and heartbreaking," she wrote.

Fellow actor Nani wrote in a post on X, "I wish the kind of enthusiasm government authorities and media show in anything related to people from cinema was also there for the regular citizens. We would have lived in a better society." Bollywood star Varun Dhawan has come out in support of Allu Arjun, stating it is not right to blame a single individual.

Meanwhile, the Telangana High Court on Friday granted Allu Arjun interim bail, minutes after a city court sent him to judicial custody for 14 days in the case. The High Court gave interim bail for four weeks during the hearing of the quash petition filed by the actor. The court asked him to submit a personal bond of Rs 50,000 to the Jail Superintendent. — ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

All the best!

The presence of Kichcha Sudeep elated the cast and crew of pan-India movie Father. Sudeep unveiled the motion poster of the movie Father at a function on Thursday evening. Director-cum-producer R Chandru has bankrolled the movie. It is the first movie under the RC Studios banner. Prakash Raj and Darling Krishna play the father and the son in the movie.

"Producer R Chandru must bankroll 50 movies and not bother about criticism. Chandru is a gentleman. Darling Krishna is a talented actor," said Sudeep.

Pulling actor Nagabhushan's leg for promoting his movie Vidyapati Sudeep said. "Nagabhushan is a clever person. He used the stage to mention the name of his movie Vidyapati not once but three times," Sudeep said.

Chandru said that Sudeep has always been supporting him. "I am very happy to have Sudeep as the chief guest for the unveiling of the motion poster of this movie. A major portion of the movie's shooting is completed except for two songs. I bankrolled this movie because of the script by Raj Mohan about the bond between a father and son. Raj Mohan has also directed this movie," Chandru said.

Best movie

Producer-cum-director Krishne Gowda is excited about the best movie award for his movie Lachchi. The movie was adjudged as the best movie at Kolkata International Film Festival.

"I am very happy that Lachchi was declared as the best movie among the 14 movies that were shortlisted. After 15 years, a Kannada movie has been declared as the best movie. The movie has received the best producer award at the Nigerian Film Festival," said Krishne Gowda.

Krishne Gowda, apart from bankrolling and directing the movie, has played a cop in the movie. "The movie throws light on child trafficking in the state. The movie revolves around some people who sell children due to poverty or other reasons," said Krishne Gowda.

Gowda is planning to screen this movie at various film festivals and also has a plan for its theatrical release shortly. "My movie highlights the importance of awareness and also the responsibility of the authorities to end child trafficking that has been rampant across the state," he said.